



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*A copy of today's plea agreement is available in .pdf format,
and may be downloaded from the district's Web site at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow*

KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Lawrence, Kan., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to attempting to entice a 14-year-old girl to engage in illicit sexual activity.

Tyler M. Leach, 23, of Lawrence, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to the charge contained in a March 30, 2005, federal indictment. At the time of the federal offense, **Leach** was on bond after pleading guilty in Kansas to state charges of aggravated criminal sodomy involving a 13-year-old girl.

Leach admitted that on March 8, 2005, he used his computer to access the Internet and initiated a conversation in an America Online chatroom with a person he believed to be a 14-year-old girl. In reality, Graves said, **Leach** was communicating with an undercover agent in the FBI's Cyber Crimes Task Force.

During the conversation, **Leach** asked several questions regarding the girl's experience with different sexual acts. When she told him that she was "not very experienced" and "behind" because some of her friends had "done a lot more than she had," **Leach** asked if she would like him to come see her and "catch her up on her sex life."

The next day **Leach** contacted the undercover agent via instant message and made arrangements to travel to her home after his classes at Johnson County Community College but before her parents arrived home from work. **Leach** also sent her an e-mail directing her to "wear something cute and sexy for me." **Leach** traveled across the state line from Kansas to Missouri in

order to engage in sexual activity for which he could be charged under Missouri law with statutory rape and statutory sodomy.

On March 10, 2005, **Leach** arrived at the residence provided to him by the undercover agent and was arrested. In a search of **Leach's** vehicle, law enforcement officers found a list of Web sites, many with titles that indicate an interest in underage females. They also found screen names and information about other individuals, including two 12-year-old girls **Leach** met on-line.

Under federal statutes, **Leach** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 60 years in federal prison without parole (because of his prior sex offense conviction), plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia Phillips. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow